

UNESCO World heritage sites



Beguinage and belfry

The beguinage [1] and the belfry [2] are two famous landmarks. At the end of the 20th century they were added to the prestigious list of **UNESCO World heritage sites**.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation promotes, worldwide, the recognition and protection of cultural and natural heritage sites that are of exceptional value to mankind.

In 1998, 13 Flemish **beguinages** were classified as **UNESCO World heritage sites**: **Lier**, Diest, Tongeren, Kortrijk, Mechelen, Sint-Amandsberg, Hoogstraten, Bruges, Dendermonde, Turnhout, Sint-Truiden, Leuven and Ghent.

In 1999, 24 Flemish and Wallonian **belfries** were classified as **UNESCO World heritage sites** :

Lier, Tongeren, Kortrijk, Mechelen, Bruges, Aalst , Dendermonde, Diksmuide, Eeklo, Ghent, Herentals, Ieper, Lo-Reninge, Nieuwpoort, Menen, Oudenaarde, Roeselare, Sint-Truiden, Tielt, Veurne, Antwerp, Leuven, Tienen, Zoutleeuw, Tournai, Mons, Charleroi, Binche, Thuin and Namur.

In 2005 the UNESCO list was extended to include other global cultural heritage sites. One Wallonian belfry was added: Gembloux. The others are in France: in Armentières, Boulogne-sur-mer, Cambrai, Comines, Douai, Gravelines, Dunkerque, Lille, Loos, Aire-sur-la-Lys,

Bailleul, Béthune, Bergues, Calais, Hesdin, Abbeville, Amiens, Doullens, Luceux, Rue and Saint-Riquier.

At present 54 belfries are classified as UNESCO World heritage sites.

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